

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2007
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray Corwin	Chairman, Member at Large
Al Colina	Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip
John Fritz	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Todd Stebbins	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Tracey Bellone	Acting Commissioner
William B. Sickles	Sr. Superintendent of Parks
Nick Gibbons	Sr. Environmental Analyst
Tom Hroncich	Director – Parks Foundation
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Thomas Isles	Director, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Terry Maccarone	Director, County Executive Community Relations Unit
Roger Podd	Research Analyst, County Law Department

Chairman Corwin called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2007

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Tom Isles reported (and gave a slide presentation) on the “Open Space Acquisition Policy Plan for Suffolk County”. Copies of the Open Space Acquisition Policy Plan Report were distributed. During the last five decades, Suffolk County has purchased more than 46,000 acres of land to preserve important environmental resources and significant ecological areas including wetlands, drinking water supplies, river corridors, and upland habitat such as the Pine Barrens in addition to land for active recreation, hamlet parks, and historic and/or cultural park uses. The County has also acquired the development rights to almost 9,000 acres of productive farmland.

The purpose of this report to review the policies of Suffolk County’s land acquisition programs in a comprehensive manner and to clarify that policy for the future by providing updated policy guidelines. This report takes the acquisition process beyond the former, more limited approach, which often considered acquisitions on a categorical or case-by-case basis, and provides a foundation for understanding the overall open space policy and objectives of the County. There are many factors that go into the land acquisition decision making process that guide the Suffolk County Legislature and the County Executive. These include such inputs as:

- Statutory requirements and parameters of individual acquisition programs
- Open space and water quality plans and reports
- Professional advice of experts such as biologists, hydrologists, geologists, ecologists and environmental planners
- Citizen input

Our immediate concerns are the final build-out of the last remaining vacant lands left in Suffolk. What is the basis upon which to assess our open space acquisitions for the immediate future? That is what this document is to achieve.

Lauretta Fischer proposed four acquisitions. Colored site maps were distributed describing each property.

Carlls River County Park Addition – Nixon Property

The acquisition of .137 acres in Wyandanch, Town of Babylon. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program – 12-5E(1)(a).

Carlls River County Park Addition – Soliman Property

Acquisition of .49 acres in Wyandanch, Town of Babylon. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program - 12-5E(1)(a).

A motion to approve these two acquisitions was made by Trustee Fritz and seconded by Trustee White. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of *10-0-0.

*** Trustee count increased due to the arrival of Trustee Cardillo and Trustee Dawson.**

Penataquit Creek County Wetlands – William H. Leverich Family Trust Property

Acquisition of .25 acres in Bay Shore, Town of Islip. This will be acquired under the Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program - C12-5(E)(1)(a).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Dawson and seconded by Trustee Stebbins. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Sterling Creek – Pollert Property

Acquisition of 17.57 acres in Greenport West, Town of Southold. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space Preservation.

A motion to approve the acquisition was made by Trustee Hilary and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-1. Trustee Stebbins abstained.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Tom Hroncich gave an update on the Parks Foundation. He reported the Board met for the first time in several months last week. Our form with the IRS was filed and we’re expecting an answer back from them in November. Once we hear back from them we’ll have our 501(c)(3) status and we’ll be able to accept donations and have the donors be able to write it off on their taxes. He thanked Trustee Fritz for securing the funding to file the application with the IRS and gave thanks for Jay Miller’s donation as well.

The Foundation put together a logo and are in the process of putting together a web site which will be able to accept donations. The Foundation is also looking forward to being involved in Earth Day.

He reported that back in early July we received a draft agreement from the County Attorney for linking my position as Parks Foundation Director to the County. It will be an agreement with the County for a period of two years. We’ve asked, as a Foundation, for a waiver of the insurance requirement. We’re waiting to hear back from Risk Management whether that will be waived.

The by-laws provide for thirteen Foundation Board members. Three to be assigned by the County Executive, one to be assigned by the Suffolk County Legislature and one to be assigned by the Parks Trustees. The remaining are “at large”. With the current make up of the Board, which is Jay Miller, Al Colina, John Fritz and Ray Corwin, we already have three active Parks Trustees on the Board. We’ve had some discussion at our meetings whether or not you, as the Parks Trustees, want to designate one of those three as your official representative.

Chairman Corwin: Of the three Trustees on the Foundation Board, none of them is occupying the position of the Trustees designation to the Foundation Board. He suggested it might be a good idea to appoint someone, other than one of the three of us that are already on the Board, to help populate the Board with some new ideas.

Trustee McKay: The only problem to me is that we have three current Trustees, one former Trustee and now another Trustee – five members of the Foundation would be directly related to the Parks Trustees. It may cause a perception from outside the ranks. I would object on that basis (not designating one of these three to the Park Foundation).

Acting Commissioner Bellone: I would tend to agree with Trustee McKay. I think you reach out and find people from different organizations to be on the Board.

Trustee White: Who better than this Board would have the knowledge of why this Foundation was founded. Once the Foundation is up and running can money be designated for certain parks?

Tom Hroncich: Yes.

Trustee Stebbins: By appointing one Parks Trustee to the Foundation Board, the members of this Board of Trustees can actually serve in a much more pastoral position as a resource to help develop the Foundation.

Trustee Fritz recognized the donations from the Long Island Beach Buggy Association and the Fishing and Tackle Association. He also commented on how do we go beyond the Parks Trustees for Foundation Board members?

Trustee McKay asked if the Foundation can accept donations other than money.

Tom Hroncich responded “yes”.

A motion to table appointing a Trustee to the Board of the Parks Foundation was made by Trustee Colina and seconded by Trustee Stebbins. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Acting Commissioner Bellone reported on the move of the Big Duck. There was a radio announcement today about the Big Duck being moved on the 29th of this month. That’s not true. The date needs to be mutually compatible with the County Executive’s calendar and Parks schedule.

Trustee Stebbins asked if there was any status report on the Chandler Estate.

Nick Gibbons reported it was brought before CEQ yesterday. They asked for more details and additional questions that need to be addressed (i.e. how the access will be handled, materials to be used). The plan has been tabled pending additional information which we will work on in-house.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Corwin thanked Nick Gibbons for his assistance with the Annual Scientific Conference. Chairman Corwin passed around the brochure for the Pine Barrens Research Forum scheduled for October 11th and 12th at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He said he believes there’s something there for everyone and encouraged meeting attendees to come.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee McKay: I’d like to read the Legacy Program Resolution. Can I get a copy of that?

Lauretta Fischer: I will bring copies for everyone at the next meeting.

Trustee Colina: The Indian Island RFP review has been completed. The Committee will be meeting next Thursday at 9:00 AM to review the RFP.

Trustee White: With the ongoing efforts to get emergency communication towers at the Montauk GATR site we were asked to do an archeological survey. I have a rough draft. Joy was supposed to deliver some Air Force maps of the property to Acting Commissioner Bellone.

Acting Commissioner Bellone reported there was still an issue with the plan. Acting Commissioner Bellone and Nick Gibbons suggested that the consultants, Mooney and Ward, communicate to get the plan rectified.

Nick Gibbons said he will need those documents in hand by the last week in September so they can be reviewed, in-house, and he will pass them on for review by the Council.

Trustee John Fritz announced we received the permit for the fishing pier at Smith Point.

Acting Commissioner Bellone recognized Senator Schumer for his assistance for pushing this permit along.

Trustee Hilary thanked Bill Sickles and Nick Gibbons for getting the signage updated at Cedar Beach in Southold. Trustee Hilary reported that Chris Smith of the Cornell Cooperative Extension (Marine Research Facility in Southold) asked him to bring to the table issues on water quality at shellfish hatchery facility. The oxygen levels are quite down. They would possibly like to do some lateral drilling for an underground pipe to bring a fresher source of salt water to their facility.

Acting Commissioner Bellone said that request would have to be put in writing and forwarded to Parks who will consult with DPW.

Trustee Cardillo thanked Tom Isles, Laretta Fischer (and staff) for their presentation. He suggested it might be nice if we sent our best wishes to Colleen Hofmeister. He also reported the Army Corps of Engineers was looking at the “old dredge spoil site” at Indian Island County Park.

Nick Gibbons stated this was for a restoration program for reconnecting a portion of what was formerly connected wetland.

Chairman Corwin reminded the Trustees that his term as Chairman expires mid November of this year and they should start thinking about his successor.

Chairman Corwin announced that the next Trustees meeting will be at Coindre Hall in Huntington on October 18, 2007.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. Unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Minutes submitted by Ann Rothenberg.